

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00924 301352Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----039843 301357Z /47

O 301314Z MAR 78  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0651  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0924

EXDIS

HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF  
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON - JONAH'S VIEWS

1. IN TETE-A-TETE MARCH 29 WITH SYG SPECIAL REP. JAMES JONAH,  
FOLLOWING EMERGED:

2. UNIFIL MANDATE. SINCE JONAH TALKED FREELY ABOUT HIS AND  
ERSKINE'S MEETING WITH ARAFAT (BEIRUT 1676), I MADE POINT IN  
STATE 79904 (NOTAL) WHICH REACHED BEIRUT AFTER HIS RETURN TO  
JERUSALEM. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, JONAH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT  
US CAN MAKE A CASE UNIFL SHOULD CONDUCT BODY-SEARCHES.  
HOWEVER, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, HE DOES NOT BELIEVE UNIFIL  
IS IN A POSITION TO DO SO, ESPECIALLY IN THE TYRE AREA. HE  
CONCURS STRONGLY WITH POSITION PARA TWO STATE 79904 AND POINTS  
OUT UNDOF'S SEVERE DIFFICULTIES AS A RESULT OF ITS INITIAL  
ATTEMPTS TO CONDUCT BODY-SEARCHES UNTIL SYRIAN ARMY OR  
POLICE ELEMENTS WERE POSITIONED ADJACENT TO CHECKPOINTS.  
(FYI: UNIFIL'S OPERATING ORDERS, JERUSALEM 913, ENVISAGES BODY-  
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SEARCHES IN SECTION III B,4)

3. ARAFAT AND CEASEFIRE. HE FOUND ARAFAT DEEPLY  
RESENTFUL OVER WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE A CALCULATED  
EFFORT TO UNDERCUT HIM BY NOT CONSULTING THE PLO AS  
ONE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT. JONAH WORKED OUT  
SCENARIO WHEREBY SYG WOULD APPEAL TO ARAFAT BY NAME

TO ADHERE TO THE CEASEFIRE, AFTER WHICH, LATTER WOULD PUBLICLY ACCEPT. AFTER HE THOUGHT HE HAD EVERYTHING SET IN BEIRUT AND NEW YORK, SYG SUDDENLY ISSUED HIS STATEMENT ANNOUNCING ARAFAT'S ACCEPTANCE OF CEASEFIRE IN CONTEXT OF EARLIER APPEAL. JONAH WONDERED WHAT HAD CAUSED CHANGE IN HIS ORIGINAL PLAN AND HOW PLO WOULD REACT.

4. AS REPORTED JERUSALEM 916, ARAFAT TOOK POSITION HE WOULD OBSERVE CEASEFIRE IN SOUTH LEBANON BUT THAT PLO COULD "NEVER" COMMIT ITSELF NOT TO FIRE AT ISRAELIS IN "OCCUPIED TERRITOREIS" (I.E. ISRAEL PROPER). JONAH SAID HE PRESSED ARAFAT AND OTHER PLO REPS PRESENT HARD ON THIS POINT STRESSING THAT CONTINUING SHELLING OF ISRAEL WOULD ONLY SERVE TO DELAY ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. ARAFAT'S INITIAL POSITION WAS THAT UN SHOULD NOT BE IN TYRE. HE WAS SCORNFUL OF GOL WHICH HAD LET PLO DO ALL THE FIGHTING WITH ISRAEL. "I DID NOT LOSE 40 OF MY BEST OFFICERS DEFENDING TYRE IN ORDER TO TURN IT OVER TO YOU," ARAFAT SAID. JONAH SAYS HE EMPHASIZED PLO WOULD BE MAKING GREAT MISTAKE IF IT FIRED ON THE UN, ITS ONLY REMAINING FRIEND. FINALLY, ARAFAT AGREED FRENCH COULD HAVE HQ IN TYRE, BUT BULK OF TROOPS WOULD BE OUTSIDE. JONAH HOPES UN, WORKING WITH PLO, GOL, GOS, AND OTHERS CAN ACHIEVE MODUS VIVENDI IN TYRE. HE CONSIDERS UNIFIL DOES NOT HAVE MILITARY STRENGTH (EVEN IF IT HAD A POLITICAL DIRECTIVE TO DO SO) TO CONFRONT PLO.

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5. GOL. JONAH SAID IT WAS INCORRECT FOR UNNY TO THINK OF GOL AS A GOVERNMENT IN THE USUAL SENSE OF THE WORD, SOMETHING HE HAD NOT APPRECIATED UNTIL HE GOT TO BEIRUT. IN NEW YORK, WHEN TUENI SPOKE, SYG GOT MISTAKEN IMPRESSION HIS WORDS MEANT SOMETHING. JONAH WAS VERY SKEPTICAL LEBANESE ARMY WOULD MOVE SOUTH ANYTIME SOON AND PINNED HIS HOPES ON UTILIZATION OF GENDARMES PROMISED BY KHOURY INDICATES UNIFIL HAS RUN INTO PROBLEM (LATEST REPORT, JERUSALEM 918, ON THIS SCORE).

6. SYRIA. JONAH BELIEVES SYRIA WILL REFUSE TO ADVANCE FROM ZAHRANI TO LITANI SINCE THIS WOULD MEAN DESTRUCTION OF PLO AS AN INDEPENDENT FIGHTING FORCE, SOMETHING HE THINKS GOS DOES NOT WANT.

7. CHRISTIANS. AS FOR HADDAD AND THE "GOOD FENCE," JONAH THINKS THESE ARE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE FACED LATER. UN HAS TOO MANY OTHER PRESSING PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH NOW. SAME THING IS TRUE OF DP'S, GIVEN DESTRUCTION OF LEBANESE VILLAGES.

8. UNNY. JONAH CAUTIOUSLY VOLUNTEERED THAT THERE HAD BEEN PROBLEMS BETWEEN UNNY AND JERUSALEM UNHQ AND IMPLIED SIILASVUO HAD RECEIVED SOME UNREALISTIC INSTRUCTIONS. HE COMMENTED IT WAS TOO BAD URQUHART WAS ON LEAVE. JONAH'S PRESENT PLAN IS TO RETURN TO NEW YORK THIS WEEK-END IF WALDHEIM AGREES, AFTER WHICH WE HEAR HE MAY MAKE TRIP TO PERU.  
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## Message Attributes

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